internal affairs, the spokesperson stated that India often shows an unacceptable proclivity to interfere in internal affairs of its neighbours. Such tendency is contrary to efforts aimed at building an environment of trust, peace and stability in South Asia.

The statement is all the more surprising from the spokesman of India, a country that has long tried to suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people and has a record of systematic and serious human rights violation in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The heavy handed methods and use of force by India to quell the ongoing unrest especially in the North East of the country and the widespread violence afflicting many of its parts are well known and need no comment.

We are also intrigued by this provocative statement at this time when the two countries are engaged in the peace process to address all issues including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The statement tends to vitiate the current atmosphere of improved relations that accords with the wishes of the people of the two countries."

The Government action in Baluchistan, which President Musharraf maintains is a Frontier Corps law enforcement operation against criminal absconders and miscreants (fararis) and not a military one, continues till date. Pakistani Information Minister Rashid Ahmed said, on 9 January 2006, that the 'operation has been wound up in Baluchistan' but the security forces will stay in the province and strictly deal with those found involved in violation of the law.

Agreement with South Korea

1042. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas in which agreements of co-operation have been reached and signed with the South Korean Government;

(b) the manner in which these agreements are likely to benefit the Indian economy; and

(c) the other highlights of the visit of the Indian delegation to this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During the visit of Rashtrapatiji to the Republic of Korea (RoK) from Februrary 6-9, 2006, the following agreements were signed: Agreement concerning Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters; Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology; Joint Ministerial Statement on the launching of a Joint Task Force to develop a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea; and a Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India and the Korea Industrial Technology Foundation.

(b) The Joint Task Force has been mandated to develop a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries. The implementation of other agreements will promote further development of bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, and science and technology.

(c) Rashtrapatiji's visit was the first ever visit by an Indian President to the RoK. The visit has helped in maintaining contacts at the highest level and further strengthened the India-RoK relations.

Agreement with Philippines

1043: SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any agreements with Government of Philippines;

(b) if so, the details of each of such agreements;

(c) whether Government of Philippines have agreed to provide techniques for high yield variety of rice to the Indian farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when it would be available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have signed the following three agreements with the Government of Philippines: (i) Memorandum of